



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,591	10/24/2001	James R. Kohn	1376.687US1	8554
21186	7590	03/30/2005	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			TRAN, DENISE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2189

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/045,591

Applicant(s)

KOHN ET AL.

Examiner

Denise Tran

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 12-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicant's amendment filed 2/28/05 has been considered. Claims 1-7 and 12-26 are pending in the application. Claims 8-11 have been canceled.

2. Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: lines 2-3 "the instruction that enables . . . the instruction that disables . . ." should be an instruction. Appropriate correction is required.

3. The indicated allowability of claims 12-26 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Chan et al. (4513367). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 12-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chan et al., U.S. No. 4,513,367 (hereinafter Chan).

As per claim 23, Chan teaches a computer having a computer instruction set, the computer instruction set comprising:

a resource-synchronization instruction that operates on a main memory location while performing a cache-invalidate function on one or more cache lines in a local cache (e.g., col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 15; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15) ;

an instruction that enables the cache-invalidate function to be performed upon execution of the resource-synchronization instruction (e.g., col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15; col. 13, line 33-38); and

an instruction that disables the cache-invalidate function from being performed upon execution of the resource-synchronization instruction (e.g., col. 2, lines 45-60; col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15).

As per claim 21, Chan teaches an information-handling system comprising:

a memory (e.g., fig. 2, el. Main storage);

a plurality of processing elements (PEs) including a first processing element (PE) (e.g., CP0 and CP2 or BCE0 and BCE2), wherein each one of the PEs has a cache associated with that PE, including a first cache associated with the first PE (e.g., fig. 8, el. 63), and wherein each one of the PEs is operatively coupled to the memory (e.g., fig. 1, connections between CP0, CP2, and main storage); and

means for enabling and disabling a cache-invalidate function from being performed by each respective PE on its respective cache upon execution of a resource-synchronization instruction by that respective PE (e.g., col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15; col. 13, line 33-38; and col. 2, lines 45-60; col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13,

line 15), wherein the resource synchronization instruction operates on a memory location within the memory (e.g., col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 15).

As per claim 12, Chan teaches an information-processing system comprising:
a first processor (e.g., fig. 1, CP0);
a first memory (e.g., fig. 1, main storage or fig. 8, cache 63 of CP2);
at least a first cache between the first processor and the first memory (e.g., fig. 8, cache 63 of CP0), wherein the first cache caches data accessed by the first processor from the first memory (e.g., col. 5, lines 50-60), wherein the first processor executes:

a resource-synchronization instruction that operates on a main memory location while performing a cache-invalidate function on one or more cache lines in the first cache (e.g., col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 15; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15);

an instruction that enables the cache-invalidate function to be performed on one or more cache lines of the first cache upon execution of the resource-synchronization instruction (e.g., col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15; col. 13, line 33-38); and

an instruction that disables the cache-invalidate function from being performed on one or more cache lines of the first cache upon execution of the resource-synchronization instruction (e.g., col. 2, lines 45-60; col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15).

As per claims 13-15, 17-18, 19, 22, and 24-26, Chan teaches the use of the resource-synchronization instruction is a test-and-set instruction (e.g. col. 3, lines 60 to col. 4, line 12), the use of the instruction that enables the cache-invalidate function is an enable-test-and-set-invalidate instruction (e.g., col. 3, lines 60 to col. 4, line 12; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15; col. 13, line 33-38), and the instruction that disables the cache invalidate function is a disable-test-and-set-invalidate instruction (e.g., col. 3, lines 60 to col. 4, line 12; col. 2, lines 45-60; col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15); the instruction that enables the cache-invalidate function is an resource-synchronization instruction- invalidate instruction (e.g., col. 6, lines 30-35; col. 3, lines 60 to col. 4, line 12; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15; col. 13, lines 33-38), and the instruction that disables the cache invalidate function is a disable- resource-synchronization instruction -invalidate instruction (e.g., col. 6, lines 30-35; col. 3, lines 60 to col. 4, line 12; col. 2, lines 45-60; col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15).

As per claims 16 and 20, Chan teaches a second processor (e.g., fig. 1, cp2), and at least a second cache between the-second processor and the first memory (e.g., fig. 8, cache 63 of cp2), wherein the second cache caches data accessed by the second processor from the first memory (e.g., col. 5, lines 50-60), wherein the second processor executes: the resource-synchronization instruction (e.g., col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 15; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15); the instruction that enables a cache-invalidate function to be performed upon execution of the resource-synchronization instruction (e.g., col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15; col. 13, line 33-38); and the instruction that disables the cache-invalidate function from being performed upon

Art Unit: 2186

execution of the resource-synchronization instruction(e.g., col. 2, lines 45-60; col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 15); Chan teaches wherein the cache-invalidate function invalidates the entire first cache (e.g., col. 7, lines 45-50 when all valid bits are not valid).

6. Claims 1-7 are allowable over the prior of record.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Yoshioka et al. (6629207) shows synchronization- type instructions; and

b) Songer et al. (US 6763327) shows synchronization instructions and a cache-invalidate function.

c) Fukui et al. (5860110) shows invalidating processing performed in response to a SYN instruction.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Denise Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4189. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:45a.m. to 5:15p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Kim, can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DT

3/24/05